



**BIOP UGR HWI WOODLEE
RESTORATION PROJECT**

Contract #: 81779

Project #: 1992-026-01

Final Report

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**United States Forest Service
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

**LaGrande Ranger District
LaGrande, OR**

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WOODLEE RESTORATION PROJECT

Location: The Woodlee Restoration Project is located on the Upper Grande Ronde River, tributaries to the Snake River. The project is located on 1.25 miles of the upper Grande Ronde River (RM 198-199)(T6S, R36E, S 4&9). The project is located within Upper Grande Ronde River (1706010401); Meadowbrook Creek (170601040103) watersheds.

Introduction: Historic management that included beaver trapping, mining, roading, the Woodlee Campground and an altered fire regime have degraded the Woodlee Reach of the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed's ecological form and function. The loss of functional meadow and stream habitat adversely effects the survival and rearing of native salmonids, other fish, and wildlife species.

Objectives: To achieve proper ecological form and function of the Woodlee Reach (Upper Grande Ronde River) and thereby restore habitat for the imperiled Snake River Basin Spring/Summer Chinook, Snake River Basin Steelhead, and bull trout. Objectives are as follows.

1: Physical - Restore Hydrologic Function:

Increase hydration of a laterally confined channel to improve groundwater retention through channel spanning log jam construction.

Subgoal 2: Physical - Activate 1.25 Miles of Side Channel Scrolls:

Encourage and create perennial side channels through channel spanning log jam construction.

Subgoal 3: Biological - Improve Fish Habitat:

Restore habitat complexity. Existing LWD structures will be modified and additional whole trees will be placed. These structures will encourage scour pool habitat, and fish cover.

Project Accomplishments

Structures Constructed

Structure construction involved ground based equipment to construct the structures below. The proposed project placed large wood instream (830), boulders (53), racking material (189:10 yard loads), and floodplain wood (~500) into or adjacent to the Grande Ronde River. The project involved 85 structures within 38 sites on 1.25 miles of stream. The structures consist of full spanning jams where side channel activation and floodplain inundation was possible. The rest of

the sites involved wood placement to encourage pool scour, fish cover and habitat complexity. The boulders were used for ballast on both structure types.

Side Channels

There are 1.25 miles of old side channel scrolls that were activated with this project. A large portion of the floodplain wood was placed within these channels.

Planting/Seeding

A total of 9,000 deciduous and 2,000 conifer seedlings were planted in the project area. The species planted consisted of cottonwood, willow, alder, hawthorne, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and Western larch. All of the planting was completed by hand. All areas disturbed by equipment were seeded and mulched with a native grass/forb seed mix after project completion.

***** In addition, there will be 10,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings planted in the project area in the Spring of 2020. After this planting, the project will be complete.**



Habitat Structure # 1: Before (6/25/2019)



Habitat Structure # 1: After (8/9/2019)



Habitat Structure 14: Before (6/25/2019)



Habitat Structure 14: After (8/9/19)



Log Jam Structure #37: Before (6/26/2019)



Log Jam Structure #37: After (8/9/19)



Log jam structure # 8: Before (6/25/19)



Log Jam structure #8: After (8/9/19)



Log Jam Structure # 24: Before (6/26/19)



Log Jam Structure # 24: After (8/9/19)